[English]

We are taking up this work. I will definitely look into whatever complaint is there.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the demand for upgrading the Srinagar Airport to an international airport and providing a route for Moscow-Tashkent-Srinagar-Delhi has been lying pending for the last 10-15 years? Secondly, just now you have mentioned that private airlines are plying on profitable routes and not on nonprofitable routes. What prompted the Government to allow private companies in public sector? The policy of the Government was to strengthen the public sector but you have given profitable routes to private sector and kept non-profitable routes for the Public Sector.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Perhaps, Mr. Kar has come well prepared for this supplementary.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : No, it is not so.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Whether the Government is contemplating to convert Srinagar airport into an international airport? The issue of Kashmir is being discussed at international level and our Government is trying to show that Kashmir is a part of our country. Our department is making efforts to air link Srinagar with other parts of the world. In respect of the route for Moscow, I would like to say that the Civil Aviation Department will decide it on the basis of the number of passengers. The areas where there is more traffic would be linked with this airports.

12.00 hrs.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that private airlines do not operate on non-profitable routes, I would like to say that it is being monitored on monthly basis. There is a limit that the Private operators will have to use 12 percent non-commercial sector. I have instructed my department to take immediate action against those private airlines which are not operating on such routes. I would take action if any such matter is brought to my notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Tourist Places of Orissa

*102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Orissa for development of some districts into tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Govt. of Orissa has identified South of Puri Town upto Chilka Lake as Special Tourism Area for development of Tourism in the State.

In addition the Department of Tourism has identified two Circuits in Orissa for intensive development. These are

1. Bhubaneswar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak.
2. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Yyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has prioritised 8 projects for central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs during 1996-97. The details are :

(a) Wayside amenities at Ghatgaon.

(b) Wayside amenities at Satpada.

(c) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites at Ratnagiri.

(d) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Ratnagiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.

(e) Refurbishment of heritage site at Lalitgiri.

(f) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Lalitgiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.

(g) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage site at Udaygiri and

(h) Tourist Reception and Cultural Information Centre at Kendra Parha.

A Detailed proposal for the wayside amenity at Ghatgaon has been received from the State Govt.

The Department of Tourism also prepared a project proposal for infrastructure development covering Dhauli, Nandankanan, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Lalitgiri, Pathrajpur, Kendra parha, Gupti, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated investment of Rs. 348 crores which has been posed for external aid.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Mining Sector

*106. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited

multinational foreign companies to invest in the mining sector in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such companies;

(c) the details of companies which have sent their proposals;

(d) the terms and conditions of the agreements; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The National Mineral Policy, 1993, envisages, inter-alia, private investment both domestic and foreign in the Mineral Sector. Foreign technology and investment is required particularly for the exploration of high value and scarce minerals.

(c) to (e). Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved the investment pattern of 27 proposals recommended by the Ministry of Mines for investment in the mining/metallurgical sector. However, the grant of Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML) is governed by the Provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Applications for grant of mineral concessions have to be made to the respective State Governments only. Further, only in respect of minerals included in Schedule-I of the MM (R and D) Act, 1957 prior approval of the Central Government is necessary.

[English]

Indian Labour Conference in Delhi

*108. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a session of Indian Labour Conference was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome/recommendations thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the problems of agricultural/construction/ fish contractual labourers were discussed and their representatives were invited in the conference, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to ensure the interests of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held at Delhi on 24th and 25 October, 1996.

(b) During the course of discussions in the conference, the main recommendations, inter alia, were:

(1) Workers Group suggested that Wage ceiling fixed for payment of bonus/productivity linked bonus should be removed. However, the Employers' Group urged a total review of the Bonus Act.

(2) Ministry of Labour should convene a meeting of Union Ministries of Labour, Finance and Textiles and Trade Unions and concerned State Governments to expedite a decision on implementation of the Turn Around Plan for revival of sick mills of National Textile Corporation.

(3) Ministry of Labour should again write to the State Governments to revive the practice of holding tripartite consultation at the state level by constituting truly and appropriately representative tripartite bodies and by holding its meeting atleast twice a year.

(4) A Bipartite Committee should be constituted with a view to frame a comprehensive industrial law and their report may be submitted by 31st January, 1997. The Bipartite Committee should consider proposal to amend the Trade Union Act, 1926 and recognition of trade unions through secret ballot, on a priority basis and submit its recommendations within a month.

(5) The disparity in the ceiling fixed for the payment of gratuity for Central Government employees and industrial workers should be removed.

(6) A national floor level minimum wage for unorganised establishments should be fixed taking into account the updated poverty line basis. Some of the Workers representatives also wanted the Floor level Minimum Wage to include a component based on the decisions of the Supreme Court and that, minimum wage should have automatic indexation with cost of living and reviewed frequently.

(7) Vocational training programme of DGE and T should be re-oriented towards improving the quality of vocational training and upgradation of skills. Similarly Employment Exchanges should be modernised and re-organised to function as effective placement centres.

The conclusion/recommendations of the Indian Labour conference are given due consideration while examining the relevant issues in the Ministry of Labour. Action has already been initiated on some of the recommendations.

(c) and (d). During the course of discussions in the conference, several participants raised problems of workers in the unorganised sector like agricultural and contractual labourers etc. The Conference was informed of latest development on a Comprehensive Legislation